

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 /079 W  
-----008395 180257Z /63

O 180242Z MAY 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1430  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02011

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA  
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: CONTACT GROUP MEETING OF MAY 17

REF: (A) CAPE TOWN 988; (B) CAPE TOWN 993; (C) CAPE TOWN  
994

1. CONTACT GROUP MET PM MAY 17 FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF CAPE  
TOWN'S REPORT (REF A) ON MEETING WITH BOTHA. GROUP HIGH-  
LY PRAISED CAPE TOWN FIVE'S EXPERT HANDLING OF THE MEET-  
ING AND AGREED THAT THE COMMENCEMENT OF VOTER REGISTRAT-  
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ION WOULD BE WIDELY VIEWED AS A DECIDED STEP TOWARD AN  
INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AND, IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE CASSINGA  
RAID, AS PERHAPS CONCLUSIVE PROOF OF THE INSINCERITY OF  
SOUTH AFRICA'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL. GROUP CONCLUDE  
THAT AN EARLY AND FIRM RESPONSE TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS WAS  
NEEDED. IN ITS FIRST PRELIMINARY CANVASS OF POINTS THAT  
SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN OUR RESPONSE, THE GROUP MENTIONED

THE FOLLOWING, AMONG OTHERS:

(A) THE SOUTH AFRICANS MUST RECOGNIZE THE TRUE  
NEGATIVE IMPACT OF THE CASSINGA RAID;

(B) THE UNILATERAL STEP SUGGESTED BY THE SOUTH  
AFRICANS WILL BE WIDELY VIEWED AS EVIDENCE OF THE  
INSINCERITY OF SOUTH AFRICA'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE  
PROPOSAL AND WILL SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE OUR CONTINUING  
EFFORT FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT;

(C) WHAT IS NEEDED NOW IS FOR THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO  
TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TO ESTABLISH THE CLIMATE OF TRUST  
SO NECESSARY FOR THE FORWARD PROGRESS OF OUR INITIATIVE;

(D) IT WILL TAKE TIME FOR MOMENTUM TO BE REGENERATED  
AND SOUTH AFRICA MUST BE PATIENT WHILE WE MAKE EVERY  
EFFORT TO SECURE THAT REGENERATION.

CONTACT GROUP WILL MEET MAY 18 TO CONSIDER RESPONSE,  
FIRST DRAFT OF WHICH IS BEING PREPARED BY THE CANADIANS.

2. ROUP THEN CONSIDERED FORMAT OF RESPONSE. BRITISH  
REPORTED THAT DAVID OWEN WAS GREATLY "EXERCISED" BY THE  
PROPOSED SOUTH AFRICAN ACTION, AND CONSEQUENTLY LONDON  
HAD INSTRUCTED UKUN TO SUGGEST THAT THE RESPONSE BE MADE  
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IN THE FORM OF A MESSAGE TO VORSTER FROM THE WESTERN  
FIVE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. GROUP READILY AGREED THAT IT  
WOULD BE BEST TO DIRECT RESPONSE TO VORSTER (ESPECIALLY  
IN LIGHT OF BOTHA'S SUGGESTION REF C THAT VORSTER WOULD BE  
AVAILABLE), BUT GROUP WAS HESITANT ABOUT A MESSAGE FROM  
THE FIVE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. THE TWO PRIMARY CONCERNS  
EXPRESSED WERE:

(A) THAT, FROM PRACTICAL POINT OF VIEW, PROCESS OF  
CLEARING SUCH A MESSAGE IN CAPITALS WOULD BE TIME-  
CONSUMING; AND (B) THAT SUCH A MESSAGE MIGHT BE BEST  
HELD IN RESERVE FOR A LATER DEMARCHE. (THIS LATTER  
POINT WAS HELD STRONGLY BY THE CANADIANS.) THEREFORE,  
IT WAS AGREED AD REFERENDUM THAT THE BEST PROCEDURE MGIT  
MIGHT BE A WRITTEN MESSAGE FROM THE FIVE GOVERNMENTS  
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA WHICH WOULD BE  
DELIVERED TO VORSTER IN PERSON BY THE CAPE TOWN FIVE.  
THE BRITISH SEEMED SATISFIED BY THE  
RECOGNITION OF THE NEED TO APPROACH VORSTER PERSONALLY.

3. THE BRITISH THEN INFORMED THE GROUP OF LONDON'S VIEW  
THAT THE PREVIOUSLY DISCUSSED TRIP BY AMBASSADOR MCHENRY

TO SOUTHERN AFRICA (AND PARTICULARLY NAMIBIA) SHOULD BE RECONSIDERED IN LIGHT OF THE BOTHA MEETING AND THE PLANS FOR OUR RESPONSE. THE REST OF GROUP DISAGREED, ARGUING: (A) THAT MCHENRY TRIP WAS ALL THE MORE NEEDED IN LIGHT OF TODAY'S MEETING IN CAPE TOWN; AND (B) THAT IT WOULD BE A USEFUL SIGN OF WESTERN FIVE MOVEMENT TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS AND OTHERS.

4. IN THIS CONNECTION WE CONSIDERED THE GERMAN VIEW THAT AMBASSADOR MCHENRY SHOULD MAKE THIS TRIP, AS HE DID HIS PREVIOUS ONE, NOT AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONTACT GROUP BUT AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES (WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT HE WOULD PRESENT THE CONTACT

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O 180242Z MAY 78

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 02011

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

GROUP'S AGREED POSITIONS). CANADIANS AGREED, ADDING:  
"IF YOU MAKE DON A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FIVE, THEN YOU  
WILL END UP WITH ALL FIVE GOING."

5. COMMENT. LONDON'S UNEASINESS OVER SOLO TRIP BY MCHENRY IS TO BE EXPECTED. GROUP WILL CONSIDER TRIP FURTHER TOMORROW (MAY 18) WHEN MCHENRY WILL BE BACK IN TOWN, BUT TRIP SEEMS TO BE ON TRACK WITH ALL OF THE GROUP INCLUDING UKUN SEEMINGLY CONVINCED OF THE TRIP'S CRITICAL IMPORTANCE. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE QUESTION OF WHETHER MCHENRY TRAVELS AS REPRESENTATIVE OF FIVE OR CONFIDENTIAL

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OF U.S. IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT. THE IMPORTANT THING SEEMS TO BE THAT HE MAKE THE TRIP. IN FACT, TRAVELLING AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE U.S. ALONE MIGHT GIVE HIM DESIRABLE FREEDOM, AND IN ANY EVENT HE WILL BE CONSIDERED THE SPOKESMAN OF THE FIVE BY THE GENERAL PUBLIC. END COMMENT. LEONARD

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## Message Attributes

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**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MEETINGS, VOTER REGISTRATION  
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**TAGS:** PORG, PDEV, SF, WA, US, FR, GE, CA, UK  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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